



## Oddfellows Fete 1888

In connection with the Loyal "Wardour" and Juvenile Lodges of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, a grand fête was held on Wednesday. The weather in the earlier part of the day as very stormy, but brightened as the day wore on. The members assembled at their lodge-room at 10.30, and formed into procession in full regalia. Accompanied by their officers and the Tisbury and Wardour Brass Band, headed by a magnificent banner, they marched to the Parish Church, where a choral service was held. The prayers were read by the Vicar (Rev. F. E. Hutchinson), and an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. L. L. Havard (curate) from the words: "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (Romans xii, 5). Mr. Osmond presided at the organ. After service the village was perambulated and the members then proceeded to dinner, which was laid out in a creditable manner in the Victoria Hall, the caterer being Mr. Frank Love, of the Benett Arms Hotel. Sir Thomas Fraser Grove, Bart., M.P., presided, supported by the Rev. F. E. Hutchinson (vicar), Rev. L. L. Havard (curate), Colonel Best, Dr. Ensor, Messrs. Northover (2), H. Woods, J. Wastfield, J. Howell, Kendall, W. Toms, Hopkinson, J. Kemp, Randall, Whately, G. Langdon, Styring, H. J. Lever, &c., the company numbering about 200.

The toasts relating to Royalty having been heartily received, the Chairman proposed "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese and Ministers of other Christian Denominations." He was sure that they were all happy to have among them such a gentleman as their esteemed Vicar. (Cheers). Their Bishop, too, was a very active man, and he respected his energy and zeal. He begged to couple with the toast the name of the Rev. Frank Hutchinson. (Cheers and musical honours). The Rev. F. E. Hutchinson briefly replied.

The Chairman next gave "The Wardour Lodge of Oddfellows," and in doing so congratulated them on the magnificent attendance. He was delighted to see that they were aware of the necessity of providence in youth so that they might be prepared for the time of trouble and trial. There was nothing more humiliating than to have to be dependent on others, when they ought to be able to do without it. He would like to see many more such societies as theirs flourishing, and then they would be able to do away with the "big house on the hill." He believed there was no benefit society in the kingdom more prosperous than the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows. He begged to couple with the toast the name of their excellent secretary, Mr. William Hill. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. William Hill, who was loudly applauded on rising, said that the Lodge was opened on October 5th, 1868, with a capital of £224 0s. 3d. and 45 members. Six years afterwards it had only increased to £413 8s. 9d. and 62 members. During the last 14½ years (his tenure of office as secretary) it had increased to a capital of £1,528 18s. 2d. and 170 members - (cheers) - an increase of £1,112 12s. 3½d. and 108 members. Since the Lodge had been started £1,485 9s. 3d. had been paid for deaths and sickness. Mr. Reuben Watson, actuary to the Manchester Unity, reporting on the affairs of the "Wardour" Lodge on April 5th, 1887, said: "The necessary care for ensuring accuracy appears to have been bestowed on the preparation of particulars for this valuation, and they are found to be perfectly satisfactory. The sickness experienced has been generally moderate; it has not fully reached the average of the valuation data. The expenses of management are provided by equal rates of contribution per member, and the sufficiency of these for the purposes of the fund is proved by the balance in hand. The valuation brings out a surplus of the present value of £228. This will perhaps remain if the experience of the Lodge and the data from the calculations are made are found to

correspond. The management of the affairs of the "Wardour" Lodge gives evidence of zeal and care, and much of its success is due to the exercise of these qualities, so that between proper management and favourable sickness a satisfactory and sound condition has been maintained." With regard to the juvenile lodge, it was opened on July 7th, 1875, with 24 members. The present number of members was 94, and they had 12 to make at their next meeting, which would bring their total up to 106. Their total capital amounted to £110 19s. 2d. .During the 13 years they had been established they had paid £42 18s 1d for sick benefits. They had also refunded to 36 members £103 5s. 6d. on being transferred to the adult lodge. Taking the two lodges together (the adult and juvenile) they had 276 members with a total capital of £1,639 17s. 4d. He then turned his attention to the Salisbury district, which, he said, consisted of 14 Lodges, 2,998 members, with a capital of £23,526 8s, 2½d.,, being an increase of 167 members and £2,124 10s, on the year. Speaking of the Manchester Unity, he said that up to the end of 1886 their capital was £6,548,229, the annual income being £881,695, of which £650,296 was from member's contributions. In conclusion, he appealed for more assistance by way of honorary membership, their present total of honorary members in that rich district being only two, whereas they ought to have at least 30.

The Chairman proposed "The health of Colonel Best, their vice-chairman, and spoke of him as a gentleman who was always willing to do all that lay in his power for the good of those amongst whom he lived. (The toast was enthusiastically drunk.)

Colonel Best suitably acknowledged the compliment, and in eulogistic terms submitted "The health of the Chairman," which was heartily received.

The Chairman thanked those present for their kind reception of him and assured them, of his best wishes for all grades of Society in South Wilts. He had been born and bred in their midst and amongst other associations he had been their elected Parliamentary representative for 14 years. He spoke in high terms of the Oddfellows' Friendly Society, and expressed his especial liking for the juvenile branch. He concluded by proposing "The health of Dr. Ensor, the medical officer of the Lodges." (loud cheers)

[At this point of the proceedings Sir Thomas Grove vacated the chair amidst ringing cheers, and Col. Best took his place.]

Dr. Ensor briefly replied, expressing himself pleased to do all he could for the Society.

The Chairman proposed "The Host and Hostess," and spoke in eulogistic terms of the catering of Mr. Love. (The toast was heartily drunk).

Mr. Love suitably returned thanks, and the proceedings terminated.

The procession once more re-formed, and marched to a field kindly lent by Dr. Ensor. There, all kinds of amusements were provided, and the bands kept dancers pretty busy. A list of sports was also gone through, with the following results, Colonel Best acting as judge, and Mr. W. Hill as starter:- Flat race, members of the Lodge only, over 30 years of age 1st W. Green; 2nd O. Russ Ditto, from 18-30 years of age 1st W. Burton; 2nd A. Smart Flat race, twice round the course for members of the juvenile lodge, 14-18 years of age 1st G. Hacker; 2nd A. Alford; 3rd H. Wright Ditto, 10 to 14 years of age 1st W. Hill; 2nd W. Davis Ditto, 6 to 10 years of age 1st W. Baker; 2nd A. Tulk Obstacle race 1st O. Russ; 2nd A. Mould Rolling tub race 1st A. Smart; 2nd H. Wright. Everything passed off successfully. The attendance was large, and the efforts of the energetic Committee were much appreciated.

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